

TELEPHONE CALLS

July 30, 1959

The President called the Acting Secretary of State -- mainly about message received from Macmillan today. He pointed out that while Macmillan already had information about de Gaulle's reluctance about timing of Western Summit, he apparently does not know the reason for that reluctance. The President said, and Dillon agreed, that deGaulle was being completely difficult.

The President went on to say that we should now get the timing of the Khrushchev visit fixed up and we should begin the planning, particularly of security for his visit (he said he would not have an easy moment while he was here). We should suggest places where we know he will have at least a civil reception; we should send plenty of high-ranking people with him; if he wants to use his own plane it is all right with the President.

Back to de Gaulle, the President suggested that Herter might tell Couve that the reason K. is being asked here is not to negotiate, but simply that the President is trying to let him know what the Western world looks like and what we are all trying to do. The President mentioned the difficulty trying to carry water on both shoulders and on our heads, walking a tight rope all the while. Dillon said he did not think that deGaulle's feeling was substantive, that it was more protocol. DeGaulle feels that K. and the President would be "making a deal" before the people of the world. The French people would not like it if France were not in on that. Macmillan does not feel that way.

Dillon said he thought the suggestion of a meeting in London was not a bad one; deGaulle could ~~not~~ come or not as he wished, so could the Germans. The President said he could invite Khrushchev if he wanted to, deGaulle had the same prerogative. He added that he had felt that the four foreign ministers had gotten so close, he had not anticipated a difficulty such as this.

